

Attachment for University Senate Meeting
November 9, 2006

Resolution on Senate Statements

“The Faculty Senate has the responsibility at appropriate occasions to respond to value, policy and or/factual statements by individuals both inside and outside of the Northwestern University community and, with very few exceptions, to support strongly their freedom to express these statements.”

Resolution Regarding President Bienen’s Statement of February 6, 2006

“The community of scholars present at this faculty senate meeting who value academic integrity and freedom, basic honesty, compassion, and freedom of expression strongly endorse President Bienen’s statement of February 6, 2006 concerning Arthur Butz’s views on the holocaust and his tenure at Northwestern University.”

Text of President Bienen’s Statement:
February 6, 2006

Northwestern University Associate Professor Arthur Butz recently issued a statement commending Iranian President Ahmadinejad's assertion that the Holocaust never happened. Butz is a Holocaust denier who has made similar assertions previously. His latest statement, like his earlier writings and pronouncements, is a contemptible insult to all decent and feeling people. While I hope everyone understands that Butz's opinions are his own and in no way represent the views of the University or me personally, his reprehensible opinions on this issue are an embarrassment to Northwestern.

There is no question that the Holocaust is a well-documented historical fact. The University has a professorship in Holocaust Studies endowed by the Holocaust Educational Foundation. Northwestern offers courses in Holocaust Studies and organizes conferences of academic scholars who teach in areas relating to the Holocaust. In addition, Northwestern hosts a summer Institute for Holocaust and Jewish Civilization. And most recently, a fellowship in the political science department has been established in my name by the Holocaust Educational Foundation. In short, Northwestern University has contributed significantly to the scholarly research of the Holocaust and remains committed to doing so.

Butz is a tenured associate professor in electrical engineering. Like all faculty members, he is entitled to express his personal views, including on his personal web pages, as long as he does not represent such opinions as the views of the University. Butz has made clear that his opinions are his own and at no time has he discussed those views in class or made them part of his class curriculum. Therefore, we cannot take action based on the content of what Butz says regarding the Holocaust - however odious it may be - without undermining the vital principle of intellectual freedom that all academic institutions serve to protect.

Henry S. Bienen
President

Resolution for Appointment of Committee Regarding IRB Review of Non-Federally Funded Research.

“The Faculty Senate requests that Provost Dumas appoint a faculty committee drawn from diverse research areas and methodologies to work with appropriate members of the Administration to develop procedures for reviewing IRB-related non-federally funded research at Northwestern University.”